

COUNTY TRIAL COURTS

BUDGET UNIT: TRIAL COURT FUNDING – MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) (AAA TRC)

I. GENERAL PROGRAM STATEMENT

On January 1, 1998, AB233, the Lockyer – Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 went into effect in the State of California. This bill fundamentally changed how the trial courts are funded by transferring primary responsibility for funding the courts to the state. The state thus assumed the sole responsibility for funding future growth in court operations costs. In addition, it required counties to make a capped maintenance of effort (MOE) payment to the state each year for operations of the courts. The MOE contribution is made up of two components: reported 1994-95 county expenses for court operations, plus fine and forfeiture revenue sent to the state in 1994-95. Under the bill, county MOE amounts were established in 1997-98 with certain reductions and adjustments subsequently authorized by the state. In return, the state allowed the counties to retain many of those same fines and forfeitures to help fund their MOE payments with the provision that collections that exceed the amount of the revenue MOE be split equally with the state. There is no staffing associated with this budget unit.

II. BUDGET & WORKLOAD HISTORY

	Actual 2000-01	Budget 2001-02	Actual 2001-02	Budget 2002-03
Total Appropriation	31,067,607	29,838,295	33,402,632	31,828,295
Total Revenue	21,957,670	19,707,281	24,403,078	21,697,281
Local Cost	9,109,937	10,131,014	8,999,554	10,131,014

On January 29, 2002 the Board of Supervisors approved an increase in appropriations and revenues of \$2,656,305. The increase of \$1.3 million was for an increased payment to the state for its equal share of the fines and fees collections that exceeded the revenue MOE prescribed in Trial Court Funding statutes. Additionally, appropriations of \$1,356,305 were needed in order to make the current and prior year payments to a court facilities fund as required in an agreement between the county and Superior Court. Because these payments are predicated on the collections of increased fines and fees, the revenue budget was increased as well.

Due to even higher collections by the end of 2001-02, the Board of Supervisors increased appropriations and revenues at the close of 2001-02 for an additional \$908,034. This resulted in larger payments to the state and to the court facilities fund. The county's share of the additional collections also reduced the local cost by \$1.1 million.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD APPROVED CHANGES TO BUDGET (see attachments for detailed changed)

STAFFING CHANGES

None.

PROGRAM CHANGES

Due to revenue trends experienced over several years, this budget was increased by almost \$2 million in appropriations and offsetting revenues for 2002-03.

COUNTY TRIAL COURTS

GROUP: Law and Justice
DEPARTMENT: County Trial Courts - Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
FUND: General AAA TRC

FUNCTION: Public Protection
ACTIVITY: Judicial

	2001-02 Actuals	2001-02 Approved Budget	2002-03 Board Approved Base budget	2002-03 Board Approved Changes to Base Budget	2002-03 Final Budget
Appropriations					
Other Charges	31,867,822	29,838,295	31,828,295		31,828,295
Transfers	1,534,810	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	33,402,632	29,838,295	31,828,295	-	31,828,295
Revenue					
Fines & Forfeitures	8,284,908	10,411,193	12,401,193	-	12,401,193
Current Services	16,118,170	9,296,088	9,296,088	-	9,296,088
Total Revenue	24,403,078	19,707,281	21,697,281	-	21,697,281
Local Cost	8,999,554	10,131,014	10,131,014	-	10,131,014

Total Changes in Board Approved Base Budget

Other Charges	1,300,000	Increase payment to the state (\$2.4 million) for 50% of excess collections.
	690,000	Payment to court facilities fund for 25% of county's 50% of excess collections.
	1,990,000	
Revenue	1,990,000	This additional revenue contributes to the increased payments to the state and court facilities.
Total Appropriation Change	1,990,000	
Total Revenue Change	1,990,000	
Total Local Cost Change	-	
Total 2001-02 Appropriation	29,838,295	
Total 2001-02 Revenue	19,707,281	
Total 2001-02 Local Cost	10,131,014	
Total Base Budget Appropriation	31,828,295	
Total Base Budget Revenue	21,697,281	
Total Base Budget Local Cost	10,131,014	